

Fresno, California

May 24, 2011

The City Council met in adjourned session at the hour of 8:35 a.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on the day above written for the continued hearing on the City of Fresno FY12 Budget. Present were Councilmembers Baines, Borgeas, Olivier, Quintero, Xiong, Westerlund, President Brand, City Manager Scott, Assistant City Manager Rudd, City Attorney Sanchez, City Clerk Klisch, Assistant City Clerk Salazar, Budget Director Smith and appropriate staff.

**(8:30 A.M.) CONTINUED HEARING ON THE CITY OF FRESNO FY 2012 BUDGET**

President Brand reopened the public hearing and read into the record the eight requests that were made at yesterday's budget session, whereupon Councilmember Xiong stated he also asked staff for information on what would happen if the 3% concession for Enterprise Departments is not approved, which was added to the list.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Aranaz gave an overview of his department's budget which included Operational Goals, Good News, Revenue Picture, Strategies (Resource Management and Deployment [No Additional Cuts], Service/Program Impacts, and Cost Minimization/Revenue Enhancement/Job Creation [Not Included in Proposed Budget]), Capital Projects (Resource Management and Deployment [With Additional Proposed Cuts], and Service Program Impacts), and Distribution/Redistribution of 2010 Incidents in Station 4 Area, all as contained in the written handout submitted.

Speaking in opposition to the closure of Fire Station 18 and the impacts if approved were: Paul Hurlbut, 3142 W. Bellaire, and Sherry Smith, 4724 W. Swift, who also requested Council make sure every dime of the franchise fee go to the Fire Department if commercial solid waste is privatized.

Chief Aranaz, City Manager Scott and President Brand responded to questions/comments/concerns of Acting President Olivier relative to how Fire Stations (FS) 4, 10 and 18 were arrived at/what instructions were given from the administration, if fire insurance would go up for residents if stations in their area are closed, if FS 18 was a busy station, what the savings would be to the general fund if FS 4 is closed, year-to-date fire loss, capital projects, if FS 4 renovations were on track, if FS 4 was an important station to the city, if property values were higher for homes near fire stations, total savings with the closure of three stations, and strong opposition to the closure of fire stations and the idea being preposterous and unacceptable. Councilmember Borgeas presented comments and questions relative to fire protection being a core city service, if FS 18 also served the river and bluff areas, if FS 18 was the only station in northwest Fresno, the intended and unintended consequences that would result from closed stations, accreditation, Budget Scenarios 1 and 2, fire savings in Scenario 2, support for and need to work hard for the administration-recommended Scenario 1, and need for council members to find corresponding dollars elsewhere in the budget if changes are proposed, with Chief Aranaz responding throughout.

Discussion continued with Councilmember Quintero presenting comments and questions relative to **(2 – 0)** first responder fees for revenue enhancement, why the city does not have a first responder fee or an insurance billing mechanism, request for information on what is needed to implement a first responder fee, public safety facilities being critical for safety and economic reasons, what revenue-enhancing programs were being looked at/being implemented, if the City could alter/amend the contract between American Ambulance and Fresno County to charge a first responder fee and request staff look into the legalities/ability to do that, if the Firefighters Association (IAFF) had any ideas or suggestions for the City to look into, if City and union negotiations were currently underway, and if the paramedic program had been helpful to the city, with Chief Aranaz, Mr. Scott, City Attorney Sanchez and IAFF representative Jerry Smith responding throughout. Councilmember Xiong presented questions and comments at length relative to why FS 10 was removed from the discussion table, the North Central Fire Protection District contract and service area, development and growth in the northwest area, concern with closing FS 18 due to lack of surrounding stations, importance of strategic fire station locations and contract partnerships and need to be as equitable as possible in distribution, Station 15 agreement with the Fresno County Fire Protection District, request staff look into the contract's perpetuity clause, first responder subsidies, amount subsidized in county areas, request to provide maps for FS 18, the budget gap and if IAFF felt some things have not been implemented/adopted that should have been, request staff provide to Council all the information IAFF will be presenting to the City unfiltered, options for the \$600K gap, cost to run a fire station, savings with closure of a station, issues related to FS 4 renovation, and **(3 – 0)** motions/changes and member's efforts to find the corresponding dollar amount, with Mr. Scott, Chief Aranaz and Mr. Smith responding throughout.

Extensive discussion continued with Councilmembers Baines, Westerlund and Olivier presenting questions and comments relative to department highlights/accomplishments, if budget Scenario #1 would provide the department with resources needed, what resources are desired, if some of the past cutbacks have resulted in inefficient operations, the important role of support staff, multi-year projects, new apparatus needed and cost for same, budget assumptions/concessions and there being multiple scenarios the City is dealing with, feeling that the Council will is not there to close fire stations, furlough savings/deficit shown, if calls would still be answered if stations are closed, if current response times were in line with the statewide average, priority 1 and 2 calls, the decision made to not respond to priority 2 calls, if there were any plans to return to priority 2 calls, the unpopular “crash tax” Sacramento implemented in 2010 and just repealed, the cost associated with a paramedic program and how that service would provide revenue for the city, number and types of sworn positions, elimination of overtime/shift replacement/vacations, if any sworn firefighters were assigned to daily administrative work, fire inspection fees to hire staff, fire inspection requirements and cycles, average response times, opposition to closing fire stations, possible nexus/to use airport enterprise funds to assist FS 4 (**4 – 0**), FS 4 call volume, FS 4 renovation being a health and safety issue, need to assess where the City is at with impact fees, the new training center and what \$40K will provide to the City, and FS 4 bond/contract/work/status and if money from the bond could be used to pay the debt service, with Chief Aranaz, Mr. Scott, Budget Director Smith and ACM Rudd responding throughout. President Brand commented briefly speaking to FS 10 being paid in part with UGM fees and there being a potential legal problem if it is closed, the reduction in overtime being commendable, apparatus and staffing levels, past high ISO ratings and issues which resulted in a decline, and the closure of fire stations and the real question being where the money is going to come from, expanding throughout. Chief Aranaz and staff were thanked for the presentation and their work and there was no further discussion.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Chief Dyer reviewed his department’s budget which included Operational Goal, Good News, Overall General Fund FY12 Budget, Revenue Picture, Strategies, and Capital Projects.

Councilmember Baines presented questions and comments relative to department highlights/accomplishments, property crimes/resources needed to better address the problem, importance of support personnel, plans for CSOs, the reliance on grant funds, position/feeling about establishing a public safety tax as a more permanent/dedicated revenue stream (**5 – 0**), concern with violent crime levels/increase in gang violence/activities, contractions and importance of having visible police officers, plans to suppress upcoming gang violence, resources desired to address gang activity, if there was a correlation between increased gang activity and the decrease in officers, concern with police department resources, the CHRP grant, training center debt service and revenue generation, the asset and forfeiture fee, Skywatch funding and obligation, status of video policing, and the focus needing to be on resources for public safety.

#### **LUNCH RECESS – 12:07 P.M. – 1:32 P.M.**

Charles Hudiburgh, 1814 W. Pontiac, spoke to fire and police overtime costs/reductions, to his concern with a contract perpetuity clause, and to his disappointment that the administration/management did not include Council upfront in the budget scenario discussions.

Chief Dyer and City Manager Scott responded to questions and comments of Councilmember Xiong relative to whether the total impact has been seen with the loss of civilian personnel, dispatch calls/what happens to calls that are not handled by police officers, call tracking, types of crime and incidents south of Shaw, request for information on crime by policing districts, crime numbers and perspective of neighborhood residents, the CHRP grant and request for information, the central district station including what the \$10K would be used for, if a final decision has been made on moving forward, and property value/plans/sale, crime prevention and enforcement and if there was any way to quantify service impacts (**6 – 0**), grant opportunities/efforts, towing providers and process, the \$15.00 convenience fee for police report or information, savings with the reduction in helicopter use, the collaborative partnership with the Sheriff and CHP and cost, calls from county islands and response, and commendation to the department for their work. Councilmember Quintero also thanked the department for their work and programs in his district. Councilmembers Borgeas, Westerlund, Quintero, Olivier, Brand and President Brand presented questions at length relative to the training facility including if it was paying for itself, what agencies were using it, and if the Sheriff’s Department was involved in it at all, city-county consolidation efforts/discussions, cost to make city and county systems compatible, status of the central superstation, staffing detail/if sworn officers would be doing more administrative work, workload expectations, the arraignment beds and process to determine the most prolific criminals, jail booking fees, false alarm revenue, the traffic safety report, how bar watch differs from DUI

checkpoints, the non-extension of the vehicle license fee, **(7 – 0)** booking fees/ability to recover costs/need for state-sponsored legislation, the high amount of resources/investment associated with city-county consolidation, department layoffs, City property leases, copper wire theft, if a copper wire task force might be a cost benefit, need for legislation to make recycling center's acceptance of copper wire harder, and the upcoming inmate releases and need to double the arraignment beds to ten. Chief Dyer and his staff were thanked for the presentation and their work, Chief Dyer thanked Council for their support and stated his department was committed to doing the best they could, and there was no further discussion.

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## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the City Council, the hour of 3:12 p.m. having arrived and hearing no objection, President Brand adjourned the budget hearing to Wednesday, May 25, 2011, at 8:30 a.m.

*Approved* on the \_\_\_\_9th\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_June\_\_\_\_, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_ ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Lee Brand, Council President Yolanda Salazar, Assistant City Clerk